ATTACHMENT A

1. (currently amended) A pre-polymerized catalyst component for the polymerization of ethylene optionally in mixtures with olefins $CH_2=CHR$, wherein R is a C1-C12 alkyl group, comprising a non-stereospecific solid catalyst component, comprising Ti, Mg and a halogen, which is pre-polymerized with an α-olefin $CH_2=CHR^I$ wherein R^1 is a C1-C8 alkyl group, and the amount of the α-olefin pre-polymer is ~~up to 100g~~ less than 15g per g of said solid catalyst component.

2. (cancelled)

3. (currently amended) The pre-polymerized catalyst component according to claim [[2]] 1 in which the amount of the α-olefin polymer is from 0.8 to 4 g per g of solid catalyst component.

4. (previously presented) The prepolymerized catalyst component according to claim 1 comprising a titanium compound and a magnesium dihalide.

5. (previously presented) The pre-polymerized catalyst component

according to claim 1 in which the magnesium dihalide is magnesium dichloride in active form and the titanium compound is selected from the compounds of formula $Ti(OR)_{n-y}X_y$, where R is a C1-C20 hydrocarbon group, X is a halogen, n is the valence of titanium and y is a number between 1 and n.

6. (previously presented) The pre-polymerized catalyst component according to claim 5 in which the titanium compound is chosen from $TiCl_4$, $TiCl_3$ and Ti-tetralcoholates or Ti-chloroalcoholates of formula $Ti(OR^{II})_aCl_{n-a}$ where n is the valence of titanium, a is a number comprised between 1 and n, and R^{II} is a C1-C8 alkyl or aryl group.

7. (previously presented) The pre-polymerized catalyst component according to claim 1 in which the solid catalyst component to be pre-polymerized has a surface area, by B.E.T. method, between 20 and 500 m^2/g, and a total porosity, by B.E.T. method, higher than 0.2 cm^3/g.

8. (previously presented) The pre-polymerized catalyst component according to claim 1 in which the solid catalyst component to be pre-polymerized has a porosity (Hg method) due to pores with radius up to 10000 Å, of from 0.3 to 1.5 cm^3/g.

9. (previously presented) The pre-polymerized catalyst component according to claim 1 in which the solid catalyst component is pre-polymerized with an α-olefin selected from propylene, butene-1, hexene, 4-methyl-1-pentene, and octene-1.

10. (currently amended) The pre-polymerized catalyst component according to claim 9 in which the α-olefin is propylene.

11. (previously presented) The pre-polymerized catalyst component according to claim 1 in which the solid catalyst component to be pre-polymerized is obtained by;

(a) reacting a compound $MgCl_2.mROH$, wherein $0.3 \leq m \leq 1.7$ and R is an alkyl, cycloalkyl or aryl radical having 1-12 carbon atoms, with a titanium compound of the formula $Ti(OR^{II})_bX_{y-b}$, in which b is comprised between 0 and 0.5, y is the valence of titanium, X is a halogen and R^{II} is a C1-C20 hydrocarbon group;

(b) reacting the product obtained from (a) with an Al-alkyl compound; and

(c) reacting the product obtained from (b) with a titanium compound of the formula $Ti(OR^{II})_nX_{y-n}$, in which R^{II} is a C1-C20 hydrocarbon group, X is a halogen, n is the valence of titanium, and y is a number between 1 and n.

12. (previously presented) The pre-polymerized catalyst component according to claim 1 in which the solid catalyst component to be pre-polymerized is obtained by:

(a) thermally dealcoholating adducts $MgCl_2 \cdot pEtOH$, where p is a number between 2 to 3.5, until forming adducts in which the alcohol content is reduced to values lower than 2 mols per mol of magnesium dihalide;

(b) treating the thermally dealcoholated adduct of step (a) with chemical reagents capable of reacting with the OH groups of the alcohol to dealcoholate the adduct until the alcohol content is reduced to values which are lower than 0.5 mols; and

(c) reacting the chemically dealcoholated adduct of step (b) with a Ti compound of formula $Ti(OR^{II})_{n-y}X_y$, where R^{II} is a C1-C20 hydrocarbon group, X is a halogen, n is the valence of titanium and y is a number between 1 and n.

13. (previously presented) The pre-polymerized catalyst component according to claim 1 in which said pre-polymerization is carried out using amounts of an alkyl-Al compound such as to have an Al/Ti molar ratio from 0.001 to 50.

14. (previously presented) The pre-polymerized catalyst component

according to claim 13 in which the Al-alkyl compound is a trialkyl aluminum compound.

15. (previously presented) The pre-polymerized catalyst component according to claim 14 in which the trialkyl aluminum compound is chosen from triethylaluminum, triisobutylaluminum, tri-n-butylaluminum, tri-n-hexylaluminum, and tri-n-octylaluminum.

16. (currently amended) A process for the (co)polymerization of ethylene characterized in that it is carried out in the presence of a catalyst comprising (A) a pre-polymerized catalyst component comprising a non-stereospecific solid catalyst component, comprising Ti, Mg and a halogen, which is pre-polymerized with an α-olefin $CH_2=CHR^1$ wherein R^I is a C1-C8 alkyl group, and the amount of the α-olefin pre-polymer is less than 15g ~~no greater than 100g~~ per g of said solid catalyst component; and (B) an Al-alkyl compound.

17. (previously presented) The process according to claim 16 in which ethylene is copolymerized with olefins $CH_2=CHR$, wherein R is a C1-C12 alkyl group.

18. (previously presented) The process according to claim 17 in which the olefin is chosen from propylene, butene-1, hexene-1

octene-1 and 4-methyl-1-pentene.

19. (previously presented) The pre-polymerized catalyst component according to claim 12, wherein in step (a) the alcohol content is reduced to values of from 1.5 to 0.3 mols per mol of magnesium dihalide.

20 (previously presented) The pre-polymerized catalyst component according to claim 13, wherein the Al/Ti molar ratio is from 0.01 to 10.